AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of dynamically acquiring and applying a best-known process comprising:

creating a master rules database as a function of a plurality of available data structures contained in a control database and a plurality of rules;

copying an applicable one of said plurality of available data structure and corresponding one or more of said plurality of rules to form a project database;

manipulating a data structure of said project database, wherein said manipulating said data structure comprises adding, deleting, or modifying said data structure; and

invoking said project database, having said manipulated data structure, to control a project.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising specifying a header description of said project database upon said copying said applicable one of said plurality of available data structure and corresponding one or more of said plurality of rules to form said project database.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of rules are populated in each of said plurality of data structure according to one or more

categorizations.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein said populating said plurality of rules in each of said plurality of data structure comprises a just-in-time incorporation of a portion of said plurality of rules in a given one of said plurality of available data structures prior to initiation of a corresponding phase of said project.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising manipulating one or more of said corresponding rules of said project database.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein manipulating one or more of said corresponding rules comprises manipulating an operating parameter to be captured by said project database.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising capturing one or more operating parameters during execution of said project.

8. (Currently amended) An expert system comprising:

a control database ~~comprising~~ having a plurality of available data structures, wherein said control data base comprises a first hierarchical database;

a master rules database, coupled to said control database ~~comprising~~ . having one or more of said plurality of available data structures populated with a plurality of corresponding rules, wherein said master rules database comprises a second hierarchical

database;

an operations database, wherein said operations database comprises a third hierarchical database;

an initialization module, communicatively coupled between said master rules database and said operations database, wherein said initialization module causes one or more of said plurality of available data structures populated with a plurality of corresponding rules to be copied such that a project database is formed in said operations database; and

a dynamic knowledge module, communicatively coupled to said operations database, wherein said dynamic knowledge module causes a portion of a data structure of said project database to be modified.

9. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 8, wherein said dynamic knowledge module further causes one of said plurality of corresponding rules of said project database to be modified.

10. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 8, wherein said dynamic knowledge module further causes an operating parameter, for capture by said project database, to be modified.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The expert system according to Claim [[11]] 8, wherein

said operations database comprises a first database within a second database and a third database within said second database, wherein:

said first database comprises an extensible markup language (XML) database for capturing one or more operating parameters of said project;

said second database stores said plurality of rules; and

said third database stores said project data structure.

13. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 8, wherein said plurality of corresponding rules are populated in each of said plurality of available data structures of said master rules database according to one or more categorizations comprising technology and timing.

14. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 8, further comprising a continuous feedback loop module, communicatively coupled between said application of knowledge module and said master rules database, wherein said continuous feedback loop module acquires knowledge as a function of said modifying said data structure of said project database and adds said acquired knowledge to said master rules database.

15. (Currently amended) The expert system according to Claim [[14]] 8, wherein said continuous feedback loop module further acquires knowledge as a function of said modifying said corresponding rules of said project database and adds said acquired knowledge to said master rules database.

16. (<u>Currently amended</u>) A computer-readable medium containing one or more sequences of instructions which when execute by a computing system cause the computing system to implement a method of providing an expert system, comprising:

creating a master rules database as a function of a plurality of available data structures contained in a control database and a plurality of rules;

copying an applicable one of said plurality of available data structure and corresponding one or more of said plurality of rules to form a project database;

manipulating a data structure of said project database, <u>wherein said manipulating said data structure comprises adding, deleting, or modifying said data structure</u>;

manipulating one or more of said corresponding rules of said project database; and

invoking said project database, ~~having said manipulated data structure,~~ to control a project.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said plurality of rules are populated in each of said plurality of data structure comprises a just-in-time incorporation of a portion of said plurality of rules in a given one of said plurality of available data structures prior to initiation of a corresponding phase of said project as a function of one or more categorizations.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, further comprising capturing one or more operating parameters during execution of said project.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, further comprising:

acquiring knowledge as a function of one or more of said manipulations of said project database;

categorizing said acquired knowledge; and

adding said acquired knowledge to said master database as a function of said categorization.

20. (Original) An expert system comprising:

a means for establishing a plurality of available data structures;

a means for populating said plurality of available data structures with a plurality of rules;

a means for copying one of said plurality of available data structures and corresponding ones of said plurality of rules;

a means for modifying said copy of said one of said plurality of available data structures; and

a means for applying said modified copy of said one of said plurality of available data structure to a project.

21. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 20, further comprising:

a means for modifying one of said corresponding one of said copy of said plurality of rules; and

a means for applying said modified one of said corresponding one of said copy of said plurality of rules.

22. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 20, further comprising a means for acquiring operating parameters as a function of said applying said modified copy of said one of said plurality of available data structure to a project.

23. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 20, further comprising a means for acquiring knowledge as a function of said applying said modified copy of said one of said plurality of available data structure to a project.

24. (Original) The expert system according to Claim 23, further comprising a means for applying said acquired knowledge to said plurality of available data structures populated with said plurality of rules